

August 24-26, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: New chief judge appointed at Detroit's 36th District Court

"The Michigan Supreme Court appointed a new chief judge of 36th District Court in Detroit today. Chief Judge Nancy Blount's new job is effective immediately, an order signed today said.... [Blount] named Prentis Edwards Jr., who became a district judge in 2011, as the court's new Chief Judge Pro Tem."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Judge Nancy Blount to head 36th District Court in Detroit

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Nancy Blount named 36th District Court chief judge

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in Crain's Detroit Business and WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit.

MLive.com: Kenneth King replacement Nancy Blount appointed chief judge of Detroit court

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Blount named chief judge of 36th District Court; Edwards Jr. for chief judge pro tem

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Chief Judge Appointed For 36th District Court: Nancy M. Blount

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Mental health courts making a difference, according to state

"The agency that oversees Michigan's court system is praising the performance of special courts that serve people with mental illness. A study of 10 mental health courts around the state finds a lower level of repeat offenders compared to other courts. Participants also had better opportunities for work, education and treatment."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Michigan says mental health courts making difference

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Mich. says mental health courts making difference

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Lansing State Journal, the Oakland Press and the Times Herald/Port Huron.

Detroit Legal News: Survey says mental health courts effective

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Mental health courts show lower recidivism rate

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News.

The Ferndale 115 News: Study Shows Results for Mental Health Court

[Full story](#)

Mental health courts see recidivism drop, outcomes improve for mentally ill

[Press release](#)

Detroit Free Press: Michigan Court of Appeals: Members of clergy not required to report child abuse; Confidential talk or confession still protected

"The state appeals court has ruled that a member of the clergy is not required to report child abuse when a church member seeks confidential guidance. The published opinion by a three-judge Michigan Court of Appeals panel was released Thursday."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Daily Press & Argus: Michigan appeals court: Pastors don't have to report child abuse

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Grand Haven Tribune and the Times Herald/Port Huron.

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Group that advocates for victims of clergy sex abuse is critical of Michigan court decision

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Michigan Court of Appeals rules in favor of minister who didn't report suspected child abuse

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: Court: Pastors' Conversations Confidential Even In Abuse Cases

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Detroiter sues 36th District Judge Wanda Evans over church speeches

"She's known as the church lady — and she's sticking it to a judge. Detroiter Jean West, who has spent four decades helping political and judicial candidates land speaking engagements at Detroit churches, is suing 36th District Judge Wanda Evans, claiming Evans stiffed her on a \$3,500 bill during last fall's election."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Now's not the time to double down on health law

Joseph G. Lehman and Clifford W. Taylor write "The GOP-led state Senate may vote as early as Tuesday to accept an expansion of the federal Medicaid program and throw Michigan's weight behind the national health care law that some call Obamacare. Any benefits of a bigger Medicaid program would be short-lived and far outweighed by long-term economic and health harms."

[Full story](#)

Ann Arbor.com: with gallery: University of Michigan's Lawyers Club opens to students after \$39M renovation

"... The Lawyers Club is a graduate student residence exclusively available to law students. It was built as a part of the Law Quadrangle in 1924 for \$2 million. With an ornate gothic exterior, coupled with a grandiose reading room and meticulously kept lawn, the law school campus is regularly ranked among the most beautiful campus areas in the nation. Because of its age, the Lawyers Club needed upgrades and accessibility improvements."

[Full story](#)

Battle Creek Enquirer: Tami Smith Keenan has seen it all as court reporter

"Tami Smith Keenan spends her work days in the front row and always takes notes. A court reporter working for Calhoun County Circuit Judge James Kingsley, Keenan, 54, of Battle Creek, has finished her one-year term as president of the 19,000 member National Court Reporters Association."

[Full story](#)

**** The article is available by subscription only.**

Daily Press & Argus: Judge: No entrapment in drunken-driving case; Officer told woman to move auto; defendant pleads to lesser offense

"If a drunken person moves a vehicle at the request of a police officer, is that driver guilty of drunken driving or is it entrapment? That was the question presented Friday to Livingston County District Judge Theresa Brennan when an attorney for Corey Lea Strange, 22, argued her client — whose blood-alcohol content was 0.17, which is 'super drunk' under Michigan law — had no choice but to move a pickup June 8 as ordered by a Brighton police officer."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The MiLW Blog: No entrapment when officer asks drunken passenger to move vehicle

[Full story](#)

The Daily Tribune: Royal Oak attorney charged with paying 14-year-old girl for sex

"Royal Oak attorney Donald Guest allegedly began soliciting a 14-year-old prostitute in 2010, according to a criminal complaint filed earlier this month. WXYZ reports that he was one of her first clients — and also one of the most frequent."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Macomb Daily and the Oakland Press.

Also see:

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Royal Oak attorney charged with having sex with underage prostitute

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Building connections: New judge puts emphasis on serving

"That's one way to describe the newest member to the 44th District Court bench, but it would only be the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the many facets of Judge Derek Meinecke. Born in Grand Rapids to journalist Corky Meinecke and his wife Valerie, the future jurist moved throughout the state as his dad wrote for various newspapers."

[Full story](#)

Grand Haven Tribune: Inward struggle

"... Holland's 58th District Court Sobriety Treatment Program offers second-time drunken driving offenders an alternative to a year in jail. But it comes at a price. Those who apply and are accepted into the program must agree to random around-the-clock spot checks by probation officers, daily drug testing, community service work, mental health counseling and alcohol monitoring devices. They might even have to write an essay on tardiness mandated by the judge. But the award-winning program — which lasts up to two years — can give them a fair shot at a new life."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: 'We all have to learn from it,' judge tells woman responsible for crash death of motorcyclist

"Thanks in no small part to the victim's family, there will be no jail time for the 43-year-old Rockford woman who pleaded no contest to driving the SUV that stuck a motorcycle, killing its 75-year-old driver.... [Kent County District Court Judge Sara] Smolenski sentenced [Molly] Underhill to a one-year

suspended sentence, a \$500 fine and ordered her to do 10 days of community service, not as a punishment but as a way to honor [Roger] Blanker's memory with some good works."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Nominations sought for Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award

"Nominations are open for the Daniel J. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award, jointly sponsored by the Michigan Supreme Court and Michigan Department of Human Services, to honor exceptional service to Michigan's children. The award was established in honor of the late Daniel J. Wright of Grand Ledge, an attorney and longtime leader in child support and child welfare reform.... [T]he deadline is September 27, 2013."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Michigan Legal Help assists more than 200,000 self-represented people in year

"... The Michigan Legal Help website was created to provide free legal information to people who cannot afford to hire an attorney and need to represent themselves in simple legal matters. It makes legal information easier to understand and shows self-represented people how to navigate the court system properly and efficiently."

[Full story](#)

Jackson Citizen Patriot: Jackson officials have 21 days to respond to stormwater settlement offer from attorney

"City of Jackson officials have 21 days to respond to a settlement offer put forward by plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit against the city. Attorney and Jackson Coffee Company owner Brian Surgener said he offered the city a settlement agreement Friday, Aug. 23, in regard to a class action lawsuit aimed at getting stormwater utility fee refunds."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: CASA for Kids seeking volunteers

"CASA for Kids, Inc. is looking for volunteers to help children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse and neglect and placed within Eaton County's foster care system. CASA is a nonprofit organization that trains volunteers to advocate for children in foster care. Court Appointed Special Advocate volunteers are appointed by the judge to a child or sibling group for the duration of their legal court case."

[Full story](#)

Lansing State Journal: Grand Ledge mom's 5K to aid adoption

"Nicole Racine of Grand Ledge, the adoptive mother a 2-year-old boy, wants to help others achieve the joy she has found in motherhood. A part-time employee at Adoption Associates, Inc., she is heading up the group's Touched by Adoption 5K RunWalk, set for Saturday, Aug. 31, as a method to do just that.... Racine, an attorney, formerly managed the 54A district court in Lansing before she quit to be a stay-at-home mom."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Michigan politics preview: Medicaid expansion, juvenile lifers, Common Core on docket in Lansing

"... On Tuesday morning the House Criminal Justice and Senate Judiciary committees will host a joint hearing on 'juvenile lifer' legislation. Bipartisan bills introduced in June seek to update Michigan law in the wake of a 2012 U.S. Supreme Court decision prohibiting mandatory life sentences without the possibility of parole for minors convicted of certain violent crimes, including murder."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Roosevelt Park mom's conviction upheld for torture of 4-week-old son

"The Michigan Court of Appeals has upheld the conviction and sentencing of Tiffany Nicole Lang of Roosevelt Park for the torture of her son in August 2010 when he was less than 4 weeks old. A three-judge panel Aug. 13 affirmed Muskegon County 14th Circuit Chief Judge William C. Marietti's guilty verdict after a bench trial, and his sentencing of Lang to prison for 13 to 25 years for torture. Marietti also convicted Lang of first-degree child abuse and sentenced her to a concurrent term of 10 to 15 years for that."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Panel to discuss new Business Court system

"On Thursday, Sept. 5, from 5:50 to 8:30 p.m., the Michigan Irish American Chamber of Commerce will host a panel discussion for lawyers and business owners on the new Michigan Business Court system at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Atrium, 651 East Jefferson Avenue in Detroit. This free event, co-sponsored by the Incorporated Society of Irish American Lawyers and UDM Law, will include a panel of Business Court judges from the tri-county area."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Lake Orion woman's medical marijuana case returns to court after Court of Appeals ruling WITH VIDEO

"Nearly three years to the day after a medical marijuana raid that resulted in a conviction against a Lake Orion woman, the case was back in court Friday for an evidentiary hearing. Barbara Agro's conviction for delivery or manufacture of marijuana was sent back to Oakland County Circuit Judge Wendy Potts' courtroom by the Michigan Court of Appeals."

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Back to school: Local law firm provides school supplies to foster children

"... For new school supplies, the average parent is spending \$161 for elementary age children, \$198 for middle school students and \$330 for high schoolers. For many foster children in metro Detroit, they can't afford these prices. So, employees of the Southfield law firm Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss decided to help by donating \$4,000 worth of backpacks and school supplies to 54 foster children from around Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune and the Macomb Daily.

Also see:

Detroit Legal News: Pack to School

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Notice: Automatic Stay Of All Lawsuits Against City Of Detroit

"From the Third Circuit Court, Wayne County: City of Detroit Cases – Stay of Proceedings. The City of Detroit filed a bankruptcy petition under Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code and an automatic stay is in effect by operation of federal law. The Third Circuit Court has identified all cases involving the City of Detroit as a defendant and has administratively placed these cases in stay status. No further action is required by the parties."

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: 36th District Court in Detroit evacuated for suspicious package

"The 36th District Court in Detroit was evacuated Monday morning after a suspicious package was found at the building, located at 421 Madison Avenue. The bomb squad was called in to investigate the contents of the package. The package was found outside the court. The bomb squad tested it and found nothing threatening."

[Full story](#)